Ionia prison inmate’s death investigated as homicide

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IONIA, Mich. (WOOD) — Police are investigating the death of an inmate at a state prison in Ionia as a homicide.

Kevin Kelly, 36, was found unresponsive Wednesday evening in his two-person cell at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility, the Michigan Department of Corrections confirmed to News 8. MDOC says staff and EMTs tried to help him, but he died at the scene.

His death is being investigated as a suspected homicide, MDOC said. The agency would not provide further details about the death, citing the ongoing investigation.

A September 2025 photo of Kevin Kelly from the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Michigan State Police, which investigates homicides in state prisons, said a suspect had been identified. It did not release the name of that suspect.

Online MDOC records show Kelly was serving two to five years for a 2024 aggravated stalking conviction out of Wayne County.

MDOC said Kelly's death was the second homicide at Bellamy Creek this year. The first was that death of Joshua McGehee, who was found unresponsive in his cell March 27.

Inmate Michael Brewer has been charged with murder in that case, MDOC says. Online records show Brewer, 35, is already serving 50 to 90 years for a 2025 second-degree murder conviction out of Berrien County.

Bellamy Creek houses prisoners with security levels I, II and IV, and includes protective housing and administrative segregation.